

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

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SUBJ: CODEL RIBICOFF-BAKER

1. NINSITRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS ASKED US TO CALL TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE TRAVEL TO ISRAEL BY A SENATE DELEGATION NOVEMBER 7-10 TO BE HEADED BY SENATORS RIBICOFF AND BAKER. THE MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL MESSAGES REGARDING THE DELEGATION FROM THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER REGARDING THE VISIT FROM JAN NOVINS, STAFF ASSISTANT ON THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. THE DELEGATION IS TO CONSIST OF TWELVE SENATORS AND THE ENTIRE PARTY WILL NUMBER 43.

2. THE MINISTRY HAS DRAWN UP THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

NOVEMBER 7:

LATE AFTERNOON-ARRIVE AT BEN GURION AIRPORT AND DEPART FOR KING DAVID HOTEL, JERUSALEM

1900 HOURS-BRIEFING BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN

2100 HOURS-DINNER HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON

3. NOVEMBER 8:

MORNING-VISIT YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL, FOLLOWED BY A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYMPOSIUM AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

WITH MEMBERS OF THE DAVIS AND SHILOAH INSTITUTES.

1300 HOURS-LUNCH AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY HOSTED BY UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT HARMAN.

AFTERNOON-CALL ON MAYOR KOLLEK AND TOUR OF HOLY PLACES.

EVENING-DINNER HOSTED BY DEFENSE MINISTER PERES.

4. NOVEMBER 9:

MORNING-A PRESENTATION ON ISRAEL'S ENERGY SITUATION BY OFFICIALS
OF ISRAELI ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND ISRAEL ELECTRIC
CORPORATION, CHAIRED BY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER BAR-LEV.

LUNCH-LUNCH HOSTED BY BAR-LEV

AFTERNOON-VISIT TO THE NUCLEAR REACTOR RESEARCH FACILITY AT
NAHAL SOREQ, FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO WEIZMANN INSTITUTE.

EVENING(AMBASSADOR PREPARED TO HOST A RECEPTION IF DELEGATION
SO DESIRES)

5. NOVEMBER 10:

VISIT TO THE NORTH OF ISRAEL TO SEE THE "OPEN FENCE" ON LEBANESE
BORDER AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. TRAVEL WOULD BE BY AIRCRAFT
DEPARTING FROM ATAROT AIRPORT NEAR JERUSALEM AND IN THE NORTH
BY BUS.

EVENING-DINNER HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN.

6. NOVEMBER 11: DEPARTURE.

7. COMMENT: THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE A VERY FULL SCHEDULE,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SENATOR RIBICOFF'S INJUNCTION TO THE
ISRAELI EMBASSY THAT NOTHING BE ARRANGED EARLIER THAN 1000 EACH
MORNING. PLEASE ASK DELEGATION IF IT APPROVES SCHEDULE AS OUTLINED
ABOVE.

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8. WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW IF DELEGATION WISHES SEPARATE PROGRAM
FOR WIVES. THE MINISTRY EMPHASIZED THAT WIVES ARE CORDIALLY
WELCOMED TO ALL THE EVENTS SCHEDULED BUT NOTED THEY MAY FIND
SOME THE DISCUSSIONS RATHER TECHNICAL IN SCOPE, PARTICULARLY
THOSE ON NOV. 9, WHICH WILL BE DEVOTED TO ENERGY.

9. WE STATED TO THE MINISTRY OUR OBJECTION TO THE USE OF
ATAROT AIRPORT, WHICH IS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES NOTING THAT

THIS AIRPOT WAS NOT USED BY U.S. OFFICIALS. MINISTRY OFFICIALS REPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN USED BY VISITING CONGRESSMEN ON AT LEAST TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. THE DEPT IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE DELEGATION ON THIS POINT AND GIVE US GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD INSIST ON A CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULE. (NOTE: WE ARE UNAWARE OF INSTANCES WHERE U.S. CONGRESSMEN HAVE USED ATAROT).

10. WE ALSO HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE VISIT OF SO LARGE AND PROMINENT A GROUP TO THE LEBANESE BORDER. WHILE WE BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, THERE IS SURE TO BE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY WHICH WILL BE NOTED IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS. DOES THE DEPT HAVE VIEWS ON THIS?

11. DEPT IS ALSO REQUESTED TO CONFIRM THE DELEGATIONS'S TRAVEL, FT FUNDS AUTHORITY AND WHETHER IT WILL BE TRAVELLING BY U.S. AIR FORCE OR COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT.
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